THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir. Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, 5 doses of Vitamin A are given to children below three years. The first dose at 9 months is 1,00,000 IU followed by 4 doses of 2,00,000 IU once every six months. This regime is considered totally safe.

(b) 66,000 mcg. or 2,00,000 IU given every six months is totally safe. The recommendation of 400 mcg (1333 I.U.) is on a daily basis.

Schools for training medical professionals

2977. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up schools at different locations to train medical professionals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the schools will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to support the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in setting up of world class Institutes of Public Health in India to impart highest quality of public health education in the country. The exact number of Institutes has not yet been decided. PHFI is in the process of working out the detailed modalities for setting up the institutes, including site selection for building the Institutes. PHFI will become functional this year and the first Indian Institute of Public Health is likely to be commissioned by PHFI in 2008.

AIIMS like institute in Himachal Pradesh

2978. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to set up an AIIMS like institute for the State of Himachal Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) to cater to the needs of lakhs of people in the State as such institutes have been proposed for various other States;